

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-48 Cancelled

49. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a filter construction for use in an air cleaner; the method comprising steps of:
- (a) providing a filter media construction comprising a fluted filter media sheet secured to a facing sheet of filter media with a first seal therebetween against a first side of the facing sheet;
 - (b) forming a generally circular coiled configuration by coiling the filter media combination at least 10 times around with the facing sheet directed to the outside of the coiled configuration and with a sealant strip, during the coiling, positioned between the fluted filter media sheet and a second side of the facing sheet;
 - (i) the step of forming a coiled configuration comprising providing a resulting generally circular coiled configuration in the form a coreless coil having: a central open space; and, an outside perimeter of at least 60 cm;
 - (c) distorting the generally circular coiled configuration having a central aperture to a media construction having a ~~racetrack~~ shape with two generally parallel sides joined at their ends by curved portions;
 - (i) the step of distorting including closing the central open space with sealing of the fluted filter media to itself, by a sealant, to provide a media construction having a ~~racetrack~~ shape with no center core; and,
 - (ii) the step of distorting comprising forming an inner sealant strip in a center of the resulting media construction that is at least 12 cm long; and,
 - (d) positioning a housing seal on the media construction ~~having a racetrack shape with no center core.~~

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein:

- (a) the step of forming a generally circular coiled configuration comprises coiling the filter media on a hub and then removing a resulting generally circular coiled configuration from the hub to provide the coreless coil having a central open space.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50 wherein:

- (a) the first seal between the fluted media sheet and the facing sheet comprises a sealant strip.

52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein:

- (a) the sealant strip positioned between the fluted filter media and the second side of the facing sheet is a polyurethane composition that increases in volume during cure.

53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 52 wherein:

- (a) the sealant strip positioned between the fluted filter media and the second side of the facing sheet is a polyurethane composition that increases in volume by at least 40% during cure.

54. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein:

- (a) the step of positioning a housing seal comprises positioning a framework on the filter media construction and providing a housing seal on the framework.

55. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein:

- (a) said step of distorting comprises forming at least six interdigitized flutes along a center strip of the z-filter media construction, in the region of the second sealant strip.

56. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 49 wherein:

- (a) the step of distorting comprising distorting such that the second sealant strip forms a the central seal in the resulting ~~coiled~~ construction ~~having a racetrack shape~~ with no center core.

57. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 49 including:

- (a) adding polyurethane to a space inside of the coreless coil to form the media construction ~~having a racetrack shape~~.

58. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein:

- (a) providing a foamed polyurethane housing seal gasket secured to the outer surface of the media construction.

59. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein:

- (a) the facing sheet is a non-corrugated sheet.

60. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 including a step of:

- (a) applying the second sealant strip to the fluted sheet before coiling with:
 - (i) a selected amount of sealant applied a first distance from a nearest edge of the filter media construction at a first location of the filter media construction adjacent a lead edge of the strip;
 - (ii) a selected amount of sealant applied to a second distance from the nearest edge of the filter media construction in a second location of the filter media construction following the first portion, the first distance being further than the second distance; and,
 - (iii) a selected amount of sealant applied a location of the filter media construction near a tail end and at a location further from a closest edge than the sealant on the second portion of the filter media construction.

61. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein:

- (a) said step of coiling includes guiding an extension of the filter media construction into a media catch slot of a winding hub and winding the hub to coil the filter media construction.
62. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 including a step of:
- (a) sealing a tail end of the media along its length by a sealant.
63. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 62 including a step of:
- (a) sealing a tail end of the media along its length by a hot melt sealant.
64. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 62 wherein:
- (a) the tail end of the media is positioned along a straight side of the media construction ~~having a racetrack shape~~.
65. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 including a step of:
- (a) mounting a framework on the obround shape coil resulting from the step of distorting.
66. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 including a step of:
- (a) providing a housing seal ring on the framework.
67. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein:
- (a) the step of mounting a framework includes mounting a framework having a plastic cross piece positioned as a face lattice.